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REPLY

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application

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2. Applicant

Name: SONY CORPORATION

Address: 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo 141-0001 JAPAN

Country of nationality: Japan

Country of residence: Japan

3. Agent

Name: Patent Attorney, INAMOTO, Yoshio

Address: 711 Building 4F, 11-18, Nishi-Shinjuku 7-chome,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 JAPAN

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5. Subject Matter of Reply

(1) Points of the Written Opinion

According to the PCT written opinion dispatched on September 14, 2004, the inventions according to Claims 1 to 12 of the subject application lack novelty and inventive step over the descriptions of JP2002-216458A (hereinafter referred to as Document 1), JP11-328930A (hereinafter referred to as Document 2), and JP2003-59236A (hereinafter referred to as Document 3).

The reasons, in sum, are as follows:

"The inventions according to Claims 1 to 2 and 8 to 12 lack novelty and inventive step because the inventions are described in paragraphs number [0015] to [0044] and [0076] to [0133] of Document 1 cited in the International Search Report.

The invention according to Claim 3 lacks inventive step over Document 1 and Document 2 (paragraphs number [0017] to [0025]) cited in the International Search Report. It is easy for those skilled in art to add an arrangement for recording identification information of a recording medium at a plurality of points and comparing a plurality of pieces of identification information read from the recording medium at the time of recording or playback, described in Document 2, to a recording and playback apparatus described in Document 1.

The inventions according to Claims 4 to 7 lack inventive step over Document 1 and Document 3 (paragraphs number [0075] to [0082]) cited in the International Search Report. It is easy for those skilled in art to add an arrangement for allowing a user to set a representative image of a recording medium and an arrangement for automatically setting a beginning image of a beginning piece of image data as a representative image of a recording medium, described in Document 3, to a recording and playback

apparatus described in Document 1."

(2) The reasons for novelty and inventive step of the claimed inventions

(a) Description of the Claimed Inventions

In view of the above, in order to clarify differences between the inventions described in the above documents and the claimed inventions, the applicant amended description of the Claims and description of parts of the Description corresponding to Claims by a letter of amendment submitted together with this reply.

The Claims as amended are as follows:

1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for managing data that is recorded on a recording medium, the information processing apparatus comprising:

copying means for copying an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file for managing information recorded on the recording medium, the identifier being included in the first file;

creating means for creating a second file including the identifier copied by the copying means and label information describing content of the data; and

recording means for recording the second file created by the creating means in the format on the recording medium, as a file that is different from the first file.

2. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the label information includes information regarding a representative frame image representing all the frame images of image data included in the recording medium.

3. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 2,

further comprising setting means for setting the label information,

wherein the creating means creates the second file including the identifier copied by the copying means and the label information set by the setting means.

4. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 3,

wherein the setting means selectively sets the representative frame image from representative frame images of respective clips recorded on the recording medium.

5. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 3,

wherein the setting means sets a beginning frame image of a beginning clip as the representative frame image when no instruction for setting the representative frame image is given.

6. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

further comprising comparing means for comparing an identifier included in the second file with an identifier included in the first file recorded on the recording medium,

wherein the recording means records the second file in the format on the recording medium only when it is determined as a result of comparison by the comparing means that the identifier included in the second file coincides with the identifier included in the first file.

7. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

reading means for reading the second file from the recording medium; and

updating means for updating the label information included in the second file read by the reading means;

wherein the comparing means compares an identifier included in the second file whose label information has been updated by the updating means with an identifier included in the first file recorded on the recording means, and

wherein the recording means records the second file in the format on the recording medium only when it is determined as a result of comparison by the comparing means that the identifier included in the second file coincides with the identifier included in the first file.

8. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the recording medium is an optical disc.

9. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the recording medium is a semiconductor memory.

10. (Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus that manages data that is recorded on a recording medium, the information processing method comprising:

a copying step of copying an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file for managing information recorded on the recording medium, the identifier being included in the first file;

a creating step of creating a second file including the identifier copied by processing in the copying step and label information describing content of the data; and

a recording controlling step of exercising control so that the second file created by processing in the creating step is recorded in the format on the recording medium, as a file that is different from the first file.

11. (Amended) A program for allowing a computer to execute processing for managing data that is recorded on a recording medium, the processing comprising:

a copying step of copying an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file for managing information recorded on the recording medium, the identifier

being included in the first file;

a creating step of creating a second file including the identifier copied by processing in the copying step and label information describing content of the data; and

a recording controlling step of exercising control so that the second file created by processing in the creating step is recorded in the format on the recording medium, as a file that is different from the first file.

12. (Amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon data that is played back by an information processing apparatus that manages data,

wherein a first file including an identifier for identifying a format on the recording medium, the first file serving to manage data in the format, and a second file including an identifier that is the same as the identifier, the second file further including label information describing content of data in the format, are recorded in the format as mutually different files.

(b) Clarification of Supports of the Amendments

The amendment of Claim 1 that reads "copying means for copying an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file for managing information recorded on the recording medium, the identifier being included in the first file", and

the amendments of Claims 12 and 13 that read "a copying step of copying an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file for managing information recorded on the recording medium, the identifier being included in the first file",

are mainly supported by Figs. 9 and 10 and descriptions thereof at line 25 on page 20 to line 7 on page 21 and line 14 to line 24 on page 23 of the Description.

The amendment of Claim 1 that reads "creating means for creating a second file including the identifier copied by the copying means and label information describing content of the data", and

the amendments of Claims 12 and 13 that read "a creating step of creating a second file including the identifier copied by processing in the copying step and label information describing content of the data",

are mainly supported by Fig. 10 and description thereof at line 14 line 24 on page 23 of the Description.

The amendment of Claim 1 that reads "recording means for recording the second file created by the creating means in the format on the recording medium, as a file that is different from the first file", and

the amendments of Claims 12 and 13 that read "a recording controlling step of exercising control so that the second file created by processing in the creating step is

recorded in the format on the recording medium, as a file that is different from the first file",

are mainly supported by Fig. 22 and description thereof at line 8 to line 14 on page 50 of the Description.

The amendments of Claims 2 to 5 are due to cancellation of Claims 2 and 3 before the amendments.

The amendment of Claim 3 that reads "further comprising setting means for setting the label information,

wherein the creating means creates the second file including the identifier copied by the copying means and the label information set by the setting means",

is mainly supported by Fig. 10 and description thereof at line 8 to line 11 on page 21 and line 14 to line 24 on page 23 of the Description.

The amendment of Claim 6 that reads "The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

further comprising comparing means for comparing an identifier included in the second file with an identifier included in the first file recorded on the recording medium,

wherein the recording means records the second file in the format on the recording medium only when it is determined as a result of comparison by the comparing means that the identifier included in the second file coincides with the identifier included in the first file.",

is mainly supported by Figs. 10 and 26 and descriptions

thereof at line 3 to line 18 on page 24 and line 4 on page 60 to line 2 on page 61 of the Description.

The amendment of Claim 7 that reads "The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

reading means for reading the second file from the recording medium; and

updating means for updating the label information included in the second file read by the reading means;

wherein the comparing means compares an identifier included in the second file whose label information has been updated by the updating means with an identifier included in the first file recorded on the recording means, and

wherein the recording means records the second file in the format on the recording medium only when it is determined as a result of comparison by the comparing means that the identifier included in the second file coincides with the identifier included in the first file.",

is mainly supported by Fig. 10 and description thereof at line 3 to line 18 on page 24 of the Description.

The amendment of Claim 12 that reads "wherein a first file including an identifier for identifying a format on the recording medium, the first file serving to manage data in the format, and a second file including an identifier that is the same as the identifier, the second file further

including label information describing content of data in the format, are recorded in the format as mutually different files",

is mainly supported by Fig. 22 and description thereof at line 8 to line 14 on page 50 of the Description.

(c) Description of the Inventions Described in the Documents

Document 1 describes a data processing apparatus that allows more sophisticated management of a recording medium.

Document 2 describes a cassette management method and a data recording apparatus for recording recording-medium identification information specific to each recording medium so that it is included over the entire recording medium, and for registering the same information in recording-medium management information, for the purpose of identification of the recording medium.

Document 3 describes a recording apparatus, a recording method, a recording medium, and an electronic camera for generating an index file (IF) separately containing fixed-data-length portions and variable-data-length portions of file index information, and for recording the index file on a recording medium.

(d) Comparison of the Claimed Inventions and the

Inventions Described in the Documents

When the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application is compared with Documents 1 to 3, Document 1 does not describe the features of the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application, i.e., "copying means for copying an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file for managing information recorded on the recording medium, the identifier being included in the first file", "creating means for creating a second file including the identifier copied by the copying means and label information describing content of the data", and "recording means for recording the second file created by the creating means in the format on the recording medium, as a file that is different from the first file".

"Content identification information" in Document 1 refers to an identifier for identifying a disc D, so that it differs from "an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file" of the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application. Also, "initialization date and time information" in Document 1 refers to information representing "a date and time of initialization of the disc D", so that it differs from "an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file" of the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application.

Next, Document 2 describes that "by recording

recording-medium identification information specific to each recording medium so that it is included over the entire recording medium, and by registering the same information in recording-medium management information, whichever part of the recording medium is played back, recording-medium identification information recorded in that part is compared with that in the recording-medium management information", whereby "the recording medium is identified". That is, the "recording-medium identification" in Document 2 serves to identify a recording medium as described in paragraphs number [0020], [0024], and [0028].

Thus, Document 2 does not describe "an identifier for identifying a format that is managed by a first file" of the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application.

Next, as opposed to the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application, Document 3 does not describe "'copying' 'an identifier' for identifying a format that is managed by 'a first file' for managing information recorded on the recording medium, the identifier being included in the first file", "creating 'a second file' including the 'identifier' 'copied' by the copying means and label information describing content of the data", and "recording 'the second file' created by the creating means in the format on the recording medium, 'as a file that is different from the first file'".

As opposed to the descriptions of Documents 1 to 3, the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application has the features described above.

According to the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application, "a metadata file" is recorded on a recording medium as a file that is different from "an index file", so that reliability of data recorded on the recording medium can be improved.

The inventions described in Documents 1 to 3 do not achieve this advantage.

As described above, the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application has features different from those of the inventions described in Documents 1 to 3, and achieves an advantage that cannot be achieved by the inventions described in Documents 1 to 3. The invention could not have been readily possible for those skilled in art on the basis of the invention described in one of Documents 1 to 3 alone, or even on the basis of a combination of these inventions, so that the invention has inventive step.

The inventions according to Claims 2 to 9 of the subject application depend on the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application. Thus, the inventions obviously have novelty and inventive step considering that the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject

application has novelty and inventive step as described above.

The invention according to Claim 10 of the subject application is an invention of a method corresponding to the invention of an apparatus according to Claim 1 of the subject application. Thus, the invention according to Claim 10 of the subject application has novelty and inventive step by the same reasons as in the case of the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application.

The invention according to Claim 11 of the subject application is an invention of a program corresponding to the invention of an apparatus according to Claim 1 of the subject application. Thus, the invention according to Claim 11 of the subject application has novelty and inventive step by the same reasons as in the case of the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application.

The invention according to Claim 12 of the subject application is an invention of a recording medium corresponding to the invention of an apparatus according to Claim 1 of the subject application. Thus, the invention according to Claim 12 of the subject application has novelty and inventive step by the same reasons as in the case of the invention according to Claim 1 of the subject application.